

Jed 1105

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East GermanyREPORT TOPIC Military Information from Rathenow25X1
25X1
EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED DATE OF CONTENT

25X1

DATE OBTAINED

E PREPARED

30 November 1953

25X1

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

25X1

1. On 15 October 1953, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne, Rathenow, was occupied by about 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. The gun sheds on the northern edge of the installation were still vacant. Between 26 September and 15 October, drilling troops were observed in the barracks area.

25X1

25X1

2. On 15 October, the Pionier Kaserne was occupied by about 600 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Arrivals of recruits were observed after 10 October.

25X1

25X1

3. On 15 October, the Infanterie Kaserne was occupied by about 700 to 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Recruits were seen arriving on and after 10 October. Troops observed in the barracks area engaged exclusively in fatigue duty.

25X1

25X1

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET

25X1

- 2 -

4. On 15 October, the Ziethen Kaserne was occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black and black-bordered crimson epaulets. The number of officers observed increased considerably. [redacted] the headquarters had returned. [redacted] since early October, a motor vehicle repair shop had been stationed in the installation.

25X1

25X1

25X1

5. On 28 October, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne was occupied by about 300 to 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. On 22 October, about 40 troops engaged in service of the piece drill on 4 x 132-mm rocket launchers. No other training was observed in the barracks yard.

25X1

6. On 28 October, the Pionier Kaserne was occupied by about 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. About 25 x 122-mm howitzers were seen in an open shed and 10 guns of about 150-mm were seen in another shed. On 26 October, about 40 troops engaged in service of the piece drill on 6 x 122-mm field howitzers in the barracks yard. Trucks

25X1

hauled coal to the installation from the Nordbahnhof. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

7. On 28 October, the Infanterie Kaserne was occupied by about 600 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. Contrary to previous observations, the attic of the installation was also occupied to capacity by troops. On 24 October, 6 trucks, [redacted] towing 120-mm mortars, left the installation toward Serlin Heath. Trucks [redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

8. Between 21 and 24 October, about 120 troops engaged in the construction of 3 earth bunkers near the firing range in Serlin Heath. On 27 October [redacted] in one of the three bunkers, about 30 troops practiced firing at movable dummy tanks with a 122-mm field howitzer.

9. On 7 November, the Ziethen Kaserne was occupied by about 25 to 30 officers and about 150 troops. Between 23 October and 7 November, 4 trucks and 1 ambulance, each occupied by 4 to 6 officers with books and documents daily, except for Saturday and Sunday, went to the Ziethen Kaserne, at about 9 a.m., coming from the direction of the Kraftfahrer Kaserne, the Pionier Kaserne and the Infanterie Kaserne. The vehicles returned at about 2 p.m. The officers, as well as 3 Soviet civilians, were repeatedly observed proceeding to the Schuetzenhaus during the morning. On 6 November, 25 to 30 officers, 125 to 135 FM and a 12-piece military band fell in in front of the Ziethen Kaserne and marched to the Schuetzenhaus.

10. On 23 October, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne was fully lighted and the Infanterie Kaserne and Pionier Kaserne were partially lighted at dusk. At about 5 p.m. on 3 November, 5 trucks, [redacted] and towing 5 x 85-mm AT guns, were seen at the railroad crossing near Nordbahnhof, coming from the direction of the abovementioned installations and proceeding toward the town. At about 7:30 p.m. on 6 November, the same column was seen en route to Milow, coming from Premnitz. In the evening, the column returned toward Rathenow.

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

- 3 -

12. On 1 November, a social gathering held in Rathenow was attended by about 500 German civilians and about 150 Soviets. 2

1. Comment. The Pionier Kaserne is occupied by the 18th How Arty Brig (US) which, however, is rather safely believed to be equipped only with 122-mm howitzers.

25X1

2. Comment. The installations which appear to be occupied as prior to the departure of the troops to Altengrabow in the spring of 1953, are carried occupied as follows:

25X1

Ziethen Kaserne by the Hq IV Arty Corps and corps troops, including the 821st Arty Rcn Bn and an unidentified signal battalion;

Infanterie Kaserne by the Hq 6th Arty Div which, however, is not confirmed by the present report, and the 65th Mort Brig (US);

Pionier Kaserne by the 18th How Arty Brig (US) with 122-mm howitzers;

Kraftfahrer Kaserne by the 25th RL Brig and, presumably, other corps troops.

According to this distribution and the presumably correct assumption that all units were at their installations during the period under review, all strength figures appear to be underestimated. Further information is needed to definitely clarify the occupation of the installations mentioned.

SECRET